

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending.

A. Claims 1-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Morikawa (US 6,686,848). The applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for the following reason(s).

Claim 1, for example calls for *a multiplexer allotting identification information to each of the picture signals received from the cameras.*

Morikawa is silent in this regard. The Examiner refers us to multiplexers 18a-18c of Fig. 1, and col. 3, line 61-col. 4, line 8 of Morikawa, which state:

The cameras 16a-16m are assigned with respective 8-bit data "00000000"- "00001011" representing addresses "000"- "011". The multiplexers 18a-18c are assigned with respective 8-bit data "00000000"- "00000010" representing addresses "000"- "002". The VCRs 20a-20c are assigned with respective 8-bit data "00000000"- "00000010" representing addresses "000"- "002". Meanwhile, the cameras 16a-16m are assigned with a shared category code "0100", the multiplexers 18a-18c are assigned with a shared category code "0010", and VCRs 20a-20c are assigned with a shared category code "0011". The controller 12 is also assigned with 8-bit data "00000000" representing an address "000" as well as a category code "0001".

A review of the foregoing excerpt of Morikawa cited by the Examiner finds no mention of any one of multiplexers 18a, 18b or 18c *allotting identification information to each of the picture signals received from the cameras* 16a-16m. Instead, Morikawa discusses 8-bit data representing address codes of various components of the system in order for the various components to be controlled. These codes are allotted to the systems elements, not to the *picture signals*. And these codes are not allotted by a *multiplexer*.

Claim 1 also requires that *a number of available identifications is twice or more than the number of the cameras*. There is no disclosure indicating that 8-bit data and addresses assigned to the cameras are *a number of available identifications twice or more than the number of the cameras*.

That is, although there are only 13 cameras illustrated in Morikawa, there is no disclosure that Morikawa is limited to 13 cameras. Accordingly, the number of available identifications may be exactly equal to the number of cameras.

Claim 1 also requires that the identification information comprise *a plurality of proper identification bits and a corresponding plurality of auxiliary bits, characterized in that the proper identification bits identify which camera generated a corresponding picture signal*.

There is no disclosure that any of the bits of the 8-bit data "00000000"-"00001011" representing addresses "000"-"011" for cameras 16a-16m are *auxiliary bits*. And there is no disclosure that only some of the bits are *proper identification bits* identifying which camera generated a corresponding picture signal. In other words, where camera 16m may an address of 011 all of the 8-bits data 00001011 represent the address 011.

If one looked only at the address 011 one of ordinary skill in the art would have thought that an 8-bit code for address 011 would have been 00000011, not 00001011. Additionally, with respect to camera 13 (16m), one of ordinary skill in the art would have thought that an 8-bit code would have been 00001100 for no. 13 or m, instead of 00001011. However, since the 8-bit data for camera 16m is 00001011 (which one would have thought represented camera 16k instead of 16m), then it can only be deduced that the whole code, i.e., **all 8-bits of data**, represent the address 011 of camera 16m, not just some of the bits.

Further, claim 1 calls for *a picture signal storage medium for storing the picture signals and allotted identification information output from the multiplexer.*

Here, the Examiner merely refers us to Morikawa's VCRs 20a-20c. The Examiner fails to identify which portion of Morikawa's written description of the invention discloses that any of the codes are stored on the VCRs.

Morikawa discloses, for example, in col. 3, lines 46-61, "The cameras 16a, 16d, 16g and 16j output respective video signals to be inputted to the multiplexer 18a where the video signals are subjected to time-division multiplex by the multiplexer 18a. The time-division-multiplexed video signal is then recorded on a not-shown video tape by the time lapse VCR 20a. The cameras 16b, 16e and 16h have respective outputs to be time-division multiplexed by the multiplexer 18b. The multiplexer 18b has an output to be recorded on a video tape by the time lapse VCR 20b. The cameras 16c, 16f, 16i, 16k and 16m have respective outputs to be time-division multiplexed by the multiplexer 18c. The multiplexer 18c has an output to be recorded on a video tape", and in col. 4, lines 30-36, "if the command key 12g is operated when the VCR 20b is a destination appliance, a record command is given to the VCR 20b through a similar protocol establishing process. Thus, the VCR 20b will start to record video signals in response to a record command."

Accordingly, "video signals" are the only thing disclosed in Morikawa regarding what is output by the multiplexers and recorded on the VCRs.

Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1-16 is deemed to be in error and should be withdrawn.

B. Claims 1-7 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as rendered obvious and

unpatentable, over Boden (US 5633686) in view of Roberts et al. (US 5440648). The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for the following reason(s).

The Examiner errs, for example, in the interpretation of what is taught by Boden. The Examiner states the Boden's multiplexer (10 of fig. 1) allots identification information to each of the picture signals received from cameras Video 1- Video 4 of Fig. 1.

Claim 1 calls for, in part, *a multiplexer allotting identification information to each of the picture signals received from the cameras, . . . characterized in that the proper identification bits identify which camera generated a corresponding picture signal.*

First, we note that there is no statement by the Examiner that the supposed "identification information," suggested by the Examiner as being allotted by multiplexer 10 to each of the picture signals received from cameras Video 1- Video 4 of Fig. 1, *identify which camera generated a corresponding picture signal.*

Accordingly, the Examiner fails to provide a prima facie basis of rejection. Note, *Ex parte Levy*, 17 USPQ2d 1461, 1462 (1990) states:

"it is incumbent upon the examiner to identify wherein each and every facet of the claimed invention is disclosed in the applied reference."

In re Rijckaert, 28 USPQ2d 1955 (CAFC 1993) states:

"A *prima facie* case of obviousness is established when the teachings from the prior art itself would appear to have suggested the claimed subject matter to a person of ordinary skill in the art." *In re Bell*, 991 F.2d 781, 782, 26 USPQ2d 1529, 1531 (Fed. Cir. 1993) (quoting *In re Rhinehart*, 531 F.2d 1048, 1051, 189 USPQ 143, 147 (CCPA 1976). If the examiner fails to establish a *prima facie* case, the rejection is improper and will be overturned. *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 1074, 5 USPQ2d 1596, 1598 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

Second, the Examiner states that the apparent "identification information" is "represented by a predetermined number of bits (8 bits per video)."

Looking to Boden's disclosure, we find it disclosed that a "plurality of different raw video input lines are connected to a multiplexer 10, four video input lines being shown in FIG. 1, but it is understood that the principles of the invention apply to any number of such lines," that "multiplexer 10, under the control of the microprocessor, selects one of the video signals for encoding and transmission," and that the "selected video signal is a.c. coupled to a conventional d.c. restore circuit 11."

We find no mention in Boden of any "identification information being represented by a predetermined number of bits (8 bits per video)." The Examiner should point out the column and line numbers where Boden supposedly discloses that multiplexer 10 allots "a predetermined number of bits (8 bits per video)" to each picture signal received from the cameras Video 1- Video 4 of Fig. 1.

Additionally, according to the illustration of Fig. 1, we see only Video 1- Video 4 being input to multiplexer 10.

We find Boden to be completely silent with respect to any teaching of *a multiplexer allotting identification information to each of the picture signals received from the cameras, . . . characterized in that the proper identification bits identify which camera generated a corresponding picture signal*. It is noted here that Roberts et al. was not cited nor applied as a teaching for obviating the foregoing feature of the present invention.

Roberts et al. discloses, and teaches, storing pixel coordinates and identifying data with respect to an objects being scanned, an in particular, with respect to a location of a defect. The

stored coordinates and identifying fail to identify any of the camera's performing the scanning.

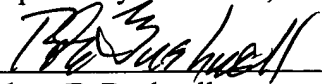
One of ordinary skill in the art, looking at Roberts et al.'s invention of a system and process for detecting defects in an object would not have been motivated to modify Boden's digital video signal encoding system utilized for transmission.

Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1-7 and 12 is deemed to be in error and should be withdrawn.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the application, withdraw the objections and/or rejections and pass the application to issue in view of the above amendments and/or remarks.

Should a Petition for extension of time be required with the filing of this Amendment, the Commissioner is kindly requested to treat this paragraph as such a request and is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 02-4943 of Applicant's undersigned attorney in the amount of the incurred fee if, **and only if**, a petition for extension of time be required **and** a check of the requisite amount is not enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,


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